

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. In a computational system wherein a value of a lock is encoded to identify (i) a set of one or more transactions that own the lock and (ii) respective one or more modes in which such transactions own the lock, and wherein at least some locks of equal value are represented using a same shared lock state, a method of performing bulk delegation of locks from one or more delegator transactions to one or more delegatee transactions, the method comprising:

traversing a data structure encoding the shared lock states; and  
for each shared lock state of the data structure encoding having an owner set that includes at least one of the delegator transactions, removing from the owner set each of the delegator transactions, and adding thereto each of the delegatee transactions.

2. A method, as recited in claim 1,  
wherein the shared lock states include a respective owner set per lock mode such that each owner set encodes a set of the transactions that owns the lock in the respective lock mode.

3. A method, as recited in claim 2,  
wherein the removing and the adding are performed for each of the owner sets that include at least one of the delegator transactions.

4. A method, as recited in claim 1,  
wherein the set of the shared lock states is at least partially encoded in an associative table of shared lock states (TSLS).

5. A method, as recited in claim 4,  
wherein at least a subset of the shared lock states that represent locks owned by a single owner is encoded separately from the table of shared lock states (TSLS).

6. A method, as recited in claim 4,  
wherein at least a frequently used subset of the shared lock states is encoded  
separately from the table of shared lock states (TSLs).

7. A method, as recited in claim 1, wherein the bulk delegation is one of:  
a one-to-many bulk delegation;  
a many-to-one bulk delegation; and  
a many-to-many bulk delegation.

8. A method, as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
selecting a subset of the locks for the bulk delegation based at least in part on a  
mode or modes in which the subset of the locks is held.

9. In a computational system wherein at least some lock states are shared  
amongst transactions, a method of implementing a bulk delegation of locks from one or  
more delegator transactions to one or more delegatee transactions, the method  
comprising:  
scanning an encoding of shared lock states; and  
for each shared lock state encoding having at least one associated owner set that  
includes one of the delegator transactions, removing from the associated  
owner set each of the delegator transactions and adding thereto each of the  
delegatee transactions.

10. A method, as recited in claim 9,  
wherein at least some of the shared lock state encodings have plural associated  
owner sets, each corresponding to a respective mode in which a  
corresponding lock can be owned.

11. A method, as recited in claim 2,  
wherein the removing and the adding are performed for each of the plural owner  
sets that include one of the delegator transactions.

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
prior to the removing and adding, validating the bulk delegation based at least in part on ignore conflicts relationships amongst the delegatee transactions.
13. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
prior to the removing and adding, validating the bulk delegation based, at least in part, on ignore conflicts relationships amongst the delegatee transactions and between the delegatee transactions and otherwise incompatible-mode owners of locks, which would remain after completion of the bulk delegation.
14. The method of claim 9,  
wherein the locks are held or owned in modes that at least include read and write modes.
15. The method of claim 9,  
wherein the locks are held or owned in modes selected from a set of lock modes;  
and  
wherein at least some individual ones of the lock modes encompass other ones of the lock modes based on a precedence relation.
16. The method of claim 9,  
wherein the encoding of shared lock states includes an associative search data structure.
17. The method of claim 16,  
wherein at least some frequently used lock states are encoded apart from the associative search data structure.

18. The method of claim 16,  
wherein at least some single owner lock states are encoded apart from the  
associative search data structure.

19. The method of claim 9,  
wherein the locks are delegated from a single delegator transaction to plural  
delegatee transactions.

20. The method of claim 9,  
wherein the locks are delegated from plural delegator transactions to a single  
delegatee transaction.

21. The method of claim 9,  
wherein the locks are delegated from plural delegator transactions to plural  
delegatee transactions.

22. A transaction processing system that supports bulk delegation of locks, the  
transaction processing system comprising:  
a lock manager that associates locking capabilities with transactions and that  
allows specification of certain conflicts between locking capabilities to be  
ignored; and  
an encoding of shared lock states, the lock manager implementing a bulk  
delegation operation by scanning the shared lock states and, for each  
shared lock state having an associated owner set that includes one of the  
delegator transactions, removing from the associated owner set each of the  
delegator transactions and adding thereto each of the delegatee  
transactions.

23. The transaction processing system of claim 22:  
wherein at least some of the shared lock states have plural associated owner sets  
corresponding to respective lock modes; and

wherein the removing and adding are performed on each of the owner sets that include at least one delegator transaction.

24. The transaction processing system of claim 22,  
wherein the transaction processing system implements a nested transaction model;  
and  
wherein the bulk delegation operation is employed to support creation,  
commitment or abortion of a sub-database.

25. The transaction processing system of claim 22,  
wherein the lock manager validates a bulk delegation request based, at least in  
part, on ignore conflicts relationships amongst the delegatee transactions.

26. The transaction processing system of claim 22, wherein the lock manager:  
verifies that, for each type of conflict between lock modes, a set of transactions  
with which a particular delegatee transaction can ignore conflicts is a  
super-set of the set of transactions with which the delegator transactions  
can ignore conflicts; and  
if at least one to-be-delegated lock is held in a write mode by at least one of the  
delegator transactions, further verifies that each of the delegatee  
transactions can ignore conflicts with each other.

27. A lock manager that implements a bulk delegation operation by validating a  
bulk delegation request based, at least in part, on ignore conflicts relationships amongst  
delegatee transactions, and for a validated bulk delegation request, by (i) scanning an  
encoding of shared lock states and (ii) for each shared lock state having an associated  
owner set that includes a delegator transaction, removing therefrom each of the delegator  
transactions and adding thereto each delegatee transactions.

28. The lock manager of claim 27, embodied as software executable in an  
transaction processing environment that associates locking capabilities with transactions

and that allows specification of certain conflicts between locking capabilities to be ignored.

29. A computer program product encoded in one or more computer readable media and comprising:

definition of a data structure instantiable in memory to represent plural locks having identical lock values using a single shared lock state encoding; lock manager instructions executable by a processor to associate locking capabilities with transactions, to specify certain conflicts between locking capabilities to be ignored, to manage the shared lock state encoding, and to implement a bulk delegation of locks from one or more delegator transactions to one or more delegatee transactions, the bulk delegation scanning the shared lock state encoding and, for each shared lock state having an associated owner set that includes one of the delegator transactions, removing therefrom each of the delegator transactions and adding thereto each of the delegatee transactions.

30. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the lock manager instructions validate a bulk delegation request based, at least in part, on ignore conflicts relationships amongst the delegatee transactions.

31. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the one or more computer readable media are selected from the set of a disk, tape or other magnetic, optical or electronic storage medium and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications medium.

32. An apparatus comprising:  
means for representing plural locks having identical lock values using a single shared lock state encoding; and

means for delegating in bulk locks from one or more delegator transactions to one or more delegatee transactions based, at least in part, on ignore conflicts relationships amongst the delegatee transactions.